

DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER



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ARE WE PREPARED?

Are we prepared? That is the question at the back of everyone's mind. If an emergency happened in our home, city or state—would we be prepared to manage and recover?

The City of Mesa has been working on Emergency Preparedness for a number of years to ensure we could respond appropriately during a crisis.

September 2001 made us step back and review our procedures, and improve our emergency preparedness to make sure we would be ready if a terrorist attack were to occur. Over the past 18 months, we've trained to be prepared for an emergency caused by human influence or by Mother Nature.

Mesa City Manager Mike Hutchinson formed an Emergency Management Committee composed of 21 City employees. This committee reviews the City's current emergency operations plan, and makes recommendations on how the organization can continue improving our response plan for a major incident.

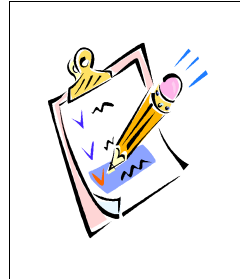
The City of Mesa maintains an Emergency

Operations Center where we can control and coordinate the major incident response with our public safety personnel. We also coordinate communication to both the public and the media from this command center.

In addition to our local efforts to be prepared, we have an Emergency Preparedness coordinator who works with other Valley cities to ensure we are coordinating our efforts with theirs.

The key to managing a major incident, and our ability to recover, is in the planning. We hope we never have to use the skills we've developed, but it is important that we continue to plan and prepare.

Mesa residents can be assured that the Mesa City Council is committed to providing responsible, effective services to you and your family every day, including during emergencies. Our job as community leaders is to provide all residents with a safe place to live. Emergency planning underscores the commitment we have to you and our community.



ARE YOU PREPARED?

So, are you prepared? Would your family know where to meet if an emergency happened in Mesa?

An emergency could be caused by Mother Nature or human influence. Whatever the cause, as individuals and families, we may

need to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours. The City of Mesa emergency management staff has developed a check list of actions you should take and a short list of supplies that are important to have on hand should something happen.

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EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The following is a list of emergency supplies you can store in your home. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags or covered trash containers:



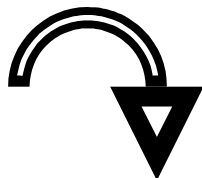
- A three-day supply of water - one gallon per person, per day - and food that will not spoil. (Water should be stored in heavy-duty containers that will not disintegrate over time).
- One change of clothing and footwear per person, and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.

- An extra pair of glasses.
- Keep a smaller version of this kit in your car trunk.

These provisions will help to ensure that you are self sufficient until local, state and federal resources can arrive.

Should an event occur, residents will be notified by the Emergency Alert System. This system uses radio and television to broadcast emergency information. City of Mesa residents will be advised to turn to Channel 11 for additional emergency information that is specific to Mesa. In the event of a disaster, the City of Mesa Emergency Hotline, (480) 644-3456, will offer 24-hour recorded emergency information and news.

For more information please visit the City of Mesa Web site at www.cityofmesa.org. There is a list of steps you can take to create a family emergency plan. This information is located under the Fire Department information.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

March 15, 2003

Center Street Facility
2412 N. Center St.

May 17, 2003

East Mesa Service Center
6935 E. Decatur

For more information, please call the Recycling Hotline at (480) 644-2222 or visit the Solid Waste Division's Web page at www.cityofmesa.org/waste.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Do you have old paint in your garage? Did you recently change the oil in your car, and you don't know how to get rid of that old oil? Then this event is for you! The City of Mesa is sponsoring two collection event dates over the next few months. (← see box for dates)

There is no cost to take advantage of this service, but Mesa residents are asked to show their most recent trash bill upon arrival. Hazardous waste will be accepted only during the event dates and times. Residents are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times while at the collection site.

Waste should be sealed in its original container if possible, and unmarked containers should be labeled if the contents are known. Acceptable items include paint, gasoline, electronics, appliances, tires (without rims), transmission fluid, aerosol cans, motor oil, pesticides, batteries, pool chemicals, etc.

Industrial waste, 55-gallon drums and large truck tires will not be accepted. Collected materials will either be recycled, reused or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

BLUE BARREL REMINDER

The City of Mesa has a great recycling program, and this program helps us reduce the amount of trash sent to the landfill. Just wanted to remind you of what items are acceptable in the Blue Barrels:

City-designated acceptable items

- Aluminum cans
- Metal food cans
- Food & beverage glass containers
- Plastic bottles, jugs & jars
- Corrugated cardboard & chipboard

- Newspapers & magazines
- Telephone books
- Office paper & direct mail



Please help us to avoid contaminated loads by placing only these items into your blue barrel.

For more information regarding acceptable and non-acceptable items, please call the Recycling Hotline at (480) 644-2222 or visit the City's Web site www.cityofmesa.org.

WHY CAN'T THE CITY JUST...

I am often asked "*Why can't the City of Mesa just install a storm drain, pave a street, close a park*"—you get the picture.

The question usually seems reasonable, but there are specific reasons, laws or circumstances that prevent the City from just doing it. From time to time—I will use this space to provide some clarity on why the City of Mesa just can't do something.

Why can't the City of Mesa just pave a dirt street?

This seems like something the City of Mesa could and should do for its residents. The reality is that it would be inappropriate for the City of Mesa to pay for a paved street or sidewalks in an area that is lacking these improvements.

Residents living in subdivisions developed within the City of Mesa paid for improvements like streets and sidewalks through development fees incorporated into the price of their home by a developer. Those residents should not be asked to pay for the improvements on others streets.

If the home was developed in Maricopa County



and later annexed into the City of Mesa, many of those improvements were not installed, or installed using different standards.

In many of these areas, the City of Mesa does not own enough right of way to install a street with the necessary storm drainage and other improvements such as sidewalks and streetlights. The drainage is very important because without proper drainage, any new street would be short-lived.

If a neighborhood is interested in creating improvements like sidewalks and streets, homeowners can request a Special Improvement District (SID), which creates a mechanism that collects a development fee from each homeowner in the area used to pay for the improvements.

If right of way is needed, the City of Mesa would expect residents to deed the property to us for the improvements. More times than not, we have found that some of the residents are not willing to provide the property because they enjoy the 'unimproved' nature of the neighborhood.



For more information about the City of Mesa Special Improvement Districts, please contact Ron Lisonbee at 480-644-2257.

REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOODS

Have you thought about organizing your neighborhood? The City of Mesa has resources available for those interested in organizing their neighborhood. Statistics show that in areas where neighbors know each other, crime is reduced, people maintain their property and a support system exists.

The City of Mesa currently has 253 neighborhood groups registered with the Neighborhood Outreach Office, and we encourage residents to consider using this resource.

This registration program is our means of identifying Mesa's neighborhoods and enhancing communication with them. Once registered, neighborhoods are eligible to receive benefits and services designed to



support and recognize neighborhood residents and their activities.

The following are some of the benefits available to registered neighborhoods:

- Notification from developers interested in obtaining input on projects planned for their area.
- Use of a resource center, with access to a copier, computer, and other resources.
- Eligibility for the City's Alley Cleanup and Tool Lending programs.

If you are interested in registering your neighborhood, please visit the City of Mesa Web site at www.cityofmesa.org for more information.

The City of Mesa has more than 250 registered neighborhoods!



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Great People, Quality Service!

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Check out our new
Web site!!

www.cityofmesa.org



CITY OF MESA EVENTS!

The following events are happening in Mesa over the next few months. Drop in—we'd love to see you!

- **The Art of Model Railroad:** This exhibit traces the history of model trains from 1812 to the present day. Large room-sized model railroad layouts and shelf railroads are featured in this exhibit. Exhibit now open at the Mesa Southwest Museum through April 13.



- **Mesa Day Miniature Float Parade and Festival:** Community parade (along Main Street), culminating in a day-long family event at Pioneer Park. Saturday, March 1 beginning at 10 a.m.
- **Valley of the Sun Marathon:** Second annual East Valley Marathon, also featuring a half-marathon, relay and 5K. Sunday, March 9 beginning at 6:30 a.m.



- **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta:** Mexican cultural celebration with authentic food, music, children's activities and educational programs. Events will be at Pioneer Park Friday and Saturday—May 2 and 3.
- **West by Southwest :** Art work from the 20th Century, including rare paintings from the Taos Society of Artists and historic and contemporary Santa Fe Artists. Exhibit at the Southwest Museum beginning April 27 through June 22.
- **Sharkabet - A Sea of Sharks from A to Z from Artist Ray Troll:** This exhibit, acclaimed "fin" artist and shark "a-FISH-ionado" Ray Troll shares amazing facts about these extraordinary living and extinct creatures. Exhibit at Southwest Museum beginning February 15 through July 13.



For more information on City events, please visit Mesa's Web site

www.cityofmesa.org